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February 23, 1962

Dr. Joshua Ledderberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford Medical School  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Ledderberg:

I enclose this essay on evolution at the suggestion of Ben Volcani.

I would very much like to know how the ideas in it fit with modern molecular approaches to genetics.

I have limited what I said to multicellular organisms, but something of the same sort must be true of bacteria even though at that level there is but slight operational distinction between "acquired characteristics" and those characteristics which are genotypically determined.

There is also a considerable difficulty in translating from a descriptive language which assumes a network of communicational pathways to the language of molecular biology which assumes a network of chemical reactions. We both talk about "pathways" but use this word in fundamentally different senses.

Yours sincerely,

*Gregory Bateson*

Gregory Bateson, M.A.  
Ethnology Section

GB:sha

see "Problems in Microbial Genetics,"  
Heredity, 2:145 (1948) at p.152

✓ ENC: (42) +

Bateson